

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Electronic documents are exchanged between a plurality of devices. Electronic document received from a source device is analyzed. From the result of this analysis it is decided whether to transmit the electronic document to some other destination device or decide the destination of the electronic document that is to be relayed. Electronic documents to be relayed are divided or merged in accordance with a predetermined length of the electronic document and allowable stay times for respective destination device. The divided or merged electronic document are transmitted to the destination device.